

Michigan State University
English Language Center / English for Academic Purposes
ESL 223: Academic Reading
Spring 2010

Class Time & Classroom:

Section 3 –Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00-4:20 p.m. in C205 Wells Hall

Instructor: Laura Ramm-Christensen

Office Hours: By appointment

E-mail: rammchri@msu.edu

Course Goals

In this course, we will focus on developing the reading skills you will need for academic work with emphasis on the following skill areas:

- Dealing with unfamiliar vocabulary
- Improving reading speed
- Reading a text critically for understanding
- Summarizing and paraphrasing what you read
- Finding specific information in a text
- Making inferences and predictions from what you read

Required Materials

NOTE: The ELC policy is that students can only use NEW textbooks.

The following are available at the bookstore in the International Center basement:

- * *Making Connections: A Strategic Approach to Academic Reading*. Kenneth J. Pakenham. 2nd edition. Cambridge UP, 2005. ISBN:0-521-54284-7
- * A large monolingual learner's dictionary of English or an ESL dictionary (example: *Longman Advanced Dictionary of American English*)
- * *Things Fall Apart*. Chinua Achebe. Publisher: Anchor Books. ISBN:978-0-385-47454-2

You will also want to make sure you have the following:

- * A three-ring binder, folders, and notebook paper
- * Access to the Internet, Word or similar application, and a printer (MSU requires e-tokens for printing at public stations).

Grading Policies

Your final grade will come from two sources: a department test and coursework.

- 20% department test held on the last day of class. Please pay attention to future announcements about test details.
- 80% coursework evaluated as follows:

Category	% of TOTAL grade
Attendance and Participation	10%
Quizzes and Tests	35%
Homework and In-class Assignments	35%

10% Attendance and Participation

The English Language Center and the INS require students to attend at least 90% of scheduled classes. Excessive absences may result in your being withdrawn from the program. You are required to be present, prepared, participating, and on time for all class sessions. If you arrive after the class has started, you will be marked late. Arriving late to a class repeatedly will count as absences. If you must come late, leave early, or miss a class altogether for some reason, please inform me in advance and make arrangements to turn in your assignments to receive credit for them. You will not receive any credit for any homework or in-class assignments during your absence unless you have made arrangements in advance. If you are absent from class, it is also your responsibility to contact another classmate to find out what you missed. You will also be evaluated continually on your participation in class and group discussions. **During the class you are to speak only in English so that your English improves with practice and other students who do not speak your language do not feel excluded.**

35% Quizzes and Tests

You will have a variety of quizzes throughout the semester. These will deal with new vocabulary, assigned readings, and unseen readings. **NO make-up quizzes or exams will be given, including the final exam. No exceptions.**

35% Homework and In-class Assignments

You will have regular homework to reinforce the ideas that we cover in class. This will also include class presentations/projects and extended reading. All assignments are due at the start of class and late homework will not be accepted without prior arrangement. If late or incomplete work is accepted, it will be marked down.

NO E-MAILED ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to catch up on work and assignments you missed.

Important Information about your grade:

Your grade will be reported on MSU's 4-point scale:

4.0	Excellent	1.5	Weak
3.5	Very Good	1.0	Very Weak
3.0	Good	0.5	Student is barely alive.
2.5	Fair	0.0	Student will be missed.
2.0	Somewhat Weak		

IMPORTANT:

ESL 223 is a credit-bearing course. Please be aware that your ESL 223 grade will affect your GPA (grade point average). All course grades in the EAP are given on the 4.0 scale and count toward a student's GPA. In order to successfully complete ESL 223 and fulfill your MSU English reading requirement, a final score of 3.0 is generally required by the university. However, some academic departments may have a higher requirement. Please check with your academic advisor for this information. If you have any other questions about meeting the university language requirement, please see the ELC student advisor, Amy Kroesche.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. All work that you produce is expected to be your own, unique material for that particular lesson (you may not use something that you have written from a previous time or for a different purpose than the given assignment). If not, there will be strict consequences. The first offense will result in a failure of that particular assignment -- no make-up will be granted. The second will result in a possible course failure.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious offense. It is your responsibility to understand what it is and to avoid it. For more information, see MSU's policy regarding academic integrity at <http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/RegsOrdsPolicies.html>

Student Responsibilities

- Due dates are not flexible. It is your responsibility to find out what information you missed, if you missed a class/assignment. You must turn in your homework on time.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned date. Students who are late to class that day will receive a penalty on that particular assignment.
- E-mailed assignments will not be accepted.
- We are all very busy people, however, mobile phone use/texting in class is not allowed. You may have your phone set to vibrate or silence for emergencies, but you may not use your phone during class.
- Eating and drinking in class are okay as long as it doesn't become a distraction to others.
- Expected classroom behavior to remember:
 - Do not speak when others are speaking
 - Turn off your mobile phone
 - Use English in the classroom
 - Prepare for class
 - Hand in homework on time
 - Do your own work
 - Have fun!

Note: This syllabus may be subject to updates periodically throughout the semester.

